



News Notes

Commander's Call – The first commander's call of the new year is Jan. 23 at the Memorial Theater. Attendance is mandatory at one of the following three sessions: 9 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Free self defense class – There will be a free women's self defense seminar Saturday at the fitness center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The seminar is open to women and children above the age of eight years old. For more information or to register, call 778-3089.

SARP training – Any non-bargaining civilians who have not received sexual assault response program training are now required to receive the training. There are nine opportunities to receive the training: Tuesday, Wednesday and Feb. 7 at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Nelles Chapel Annex. For more information contact Capt. Samantha Haberlach at samantha.haberlach@hickam.af.mil or Capt. Jonathan Joshua at jonathan.joshua@hickam.af.mil.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Breakfast – The breakfast is set for Thursday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hickam Officers' Club. Guest speaker is Chaplain (Ret.) Lt. Col. Charles Smith. The menu will be a breakfast buffet and cost is \$9 for club members or \$11 for non-members.

Last day to purchase tickets is Tuesday through the following POCs:

Chief Master Sgt. Paul
See **NOTES, A6**

In this week's Kukini



Nearing C-17s amplify 15th MXS OPs tempo B1



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Hickam Airman soars

By Maj. Paul Wright
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt Andrew Butler, 502nd Air Operations Squadron, was among the exceptional group of Airmen chosen by the December 2005 Scholarship for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR) Selection Board to receive an ROTC scholarship. Sergeant Butler will enter the program in September of this year as a student of Emery Riddle Aeronautical

University in Tacoma, Washington.

The award was a complete surprise to Sergeant Butler who was notified by Col. John McKoy, 502nd AOS commander, during a ceremony Tuesday in the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters.

"I'm really excited about this," said Sergeant Butler who applied to the program a year ago. "I haven't received any communication from the board, so I had no idea where I stood in the rankings. Shortly

after I applied I got one phone call about my application but that was it."

According to the Air Force web site, the SOAR program "nominates up to 50 people for ROTC scholarships, which pays most tuition and all fees." As part of the program, Sergeant Butler will have to separate from the Air Force while earning his degree. Although SOAR supports both two year and four year degree plans, Sergeant Butler will only have to complete two years

"I applied because I wanted to fly, and this was the best avenue for me to pursue that."

Staff Sgt. Butler
502 Air Operations Squadron

of the program because he is already half way to his degree in professional aeronautics.

The SOAR program is open to all Airmen regard-

less of whether or not the Airman is, or was previously enrolled in college, and scholarships are awarded for both technical and non-technical degrees.

Sergeant Butler decided to pursue a commission because he was interested in being a pilot.

"I applied because I wanted to fly, and this was the best avenue for me to pursue that," said Sergeant Butler. Sergeant Butler anticipates becoming 2nd Lt. Butler sometime in 2008.

Renovation underway



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman

Yunxun He sands the wall of one of the bathrooms in the commissary. The reason for the entrance of the commissary to be closed is for the bathrooms to be renovated.

Military pay, benefits increase

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President George W. Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1.

It includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention. Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some

very important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features are:

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to 90,000;

- A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;

- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month;

- A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;

- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;

- A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for servicemembers who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;

- An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for servicemembers who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;

- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by natural

See **MONEY, A3**

Important to keep record updated

Pacific Air Force
Public Affairs

Are you RED-dy?

That's RED as in "Record of Emergency Data" (formerly the DD Form 93), and these days, because the form is maintained online, it's more commonly known as the vRED, or virtual Record of Emergency Data. All Airmen are required to have a vRED on file designating who the Air Force must contact (names, addresses, phone numbers) in the event you become a casualty, and who will receive for the unpaid pay and allowances and death gratuity.

But suppose your vRED is out-

dated. Perhaps a phone number has changed. Perhaps you've been married or divorced, or a parent has passed away since you last updated your vRED.

So what? You might be wondering "what's the big deal?" if your information isn't as current as it could be.

Consider the following: You're in a car wreck that leaves you incapacitated or worse, dead. Your next-of-kin are living in the continental United States. Air Force officials look at your vRED to obtain the contact information so that they can dispatch a casualty notification team from the military base closest to notify your family

about the accident. The casualty notification team is dispatched ... but your family is no longer at that address. Air Force officials must then try to find out where your next-of-kin actually live.

This isn't just a hypothetical case. It's actually happened on a number of occasions, all because the vRED information was not accurate. Don't allow this happen to you or your family.

Updating your emergency contact information is easier than ever these days, and you can update it online at anytime. Simply log into the Virtual Military Personnel Flight through <https://www.my.af.mil> or

<https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. (If you don't have a log-in, you can create one from the homepage.) After logging in, you'll see a menu of options available to you. Select "vMPPF" to enter. Under the list of "most popular applications" in the vMPPF, you'll find the Record of Emergency Data link. Click.

You will be redirected to an informational screen first. Click "next page" to view the emergency data currently on file for you, including your duty phone number, home address, spouse and children (if applicable), religious

See **RED-DY, A3**

A new year of priorities

By Gen. Paul V. Hester
Pacific Air Forces commander

Traditionally, a new year is a time to take stock of ourselves and make resolutions to change – to improve what we do and how we do it, to assess our priorities and to make adjustments to ensure we’re on the right flight path.

Our current Air Force Chief of Staff, General Moseley, has articulated his top three priorities for 2006 very clearly, and I’d like to give you my perspective on those priorities and what they mean to our Air Force as we enter into a new year.

General Moseley’s first priority is to win the War on Terrorism. At first glance, this global war may not seem like an air war, but think again. It is a war on all fronts – air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace – and you are a major asset. We are fighting a battle for the hearts and minds of literally billions of people around the world – many of them in our own backyard ... the Asia-Pacific region. We are fighting an enemy that detests the principles we hold most dear.

Today, more than ever, the United States needs people like you representing the good of our country around the globe. Whether we are providing airlift, collecting intelligence, delivering humanitarian aid, providing expeditionary forces, or simply doing our jobs at home base, wearing the uniform and

representing our great nation has never been more important. Do it proudly and honorably ... the eyes of the world are on you!

General Moseley’s second priority is to ensure we’re taking care of our Airmen. This means making sure we have the right people with the right training in the right jobs. Yes, some painful adjustments are necessary as we shape the force to the congressionally authorized numbers of officers and enlisted Airmen. We also have some overmanned career fields that will undergo some reductions while we increase our numbers in some of the most stressed AFSCs.

Again, we are involved in a long-term global war that will continue to tax our Airmen. We need to ensure we are organizing, training, and employing them as smartly as possible. Without a doubt, some of the changes are tough, but in the end, we will become a stronger and better Air Force.

General Moseley’s third priority is recapitalization and modernization. The Quadrennial Defense Review results will come out in February -- this will be the overarching directive of our future force structure. It likely won’t contain many specifics (like numbers of aircraft), but it will form the backbone of our future budgets and force structure. The average age of our fleet is 23.5 years – and flying old airplanes is expensive. We don’t necessarily need to replace our aircraft one-for-one, but

we do need to modernize. The Air Force leadership, using the QDR as a starting point, will carefully prioritize capability needs to ensure we’re getting “the most bang for the buck” as we recapitalize and modernize our aging equipment.

In that regard, the Chief of Staff is thinking in terms of three portfolios: the Global Strike Task Force (fighters and bombers); Global Mobility (airlift and refueling); and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (including Space and Cyberspace).

PACAF will be busy in all these portfolios as we work to beddown new C-17s, F-22s, and Global Hawks in the coming months and years. In fact, PACAF’s C-17 era is just around the corner – our first jet will be at Hickam Feb 8th!

Winning the War on Terrorism, Taking care of our Airmen, and Modernizing our Force. Important priorities, all of them -- and necessary for our future success.

The Chief’s priorities are also PACAF’s priorities, and there is no better time than right now to begin the journey. From my perspective, the Chief’s priorities make a perfect list of New Year’s resolutions for the world’s greatest Air Force!

My wife, Lynda, and I wish all of you and your families nothing but the best for 2006.

Mahalo for all you do and Happy New Year.



Photo by Oscar Hernandez
(Left to right) Chinese Maj. Gen. XU Yaoyuan, chief of cadres, Col. Bill “Goose” Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, Brig. Gen. David King, Pacific Command, and Chinese Maj. Gen. Jihua Cai, Chinese delegation, pose for a photo during the Chinese delegation’s visit to Hickam

Total Force is here

By Col. Bill “Goose” Changose
15th Airlift Wing commander

On a daily basis approximately 10,000 people work, live and play on Hickam AFB. Of that number only about 2,200 are assigned the 15th Airlift Wing. We have a significant active duty presence from most of the Air Force major commands, as well as a joint command, and within the gates are both an Army and Navy unit. While it’s not uncommon in today’s Air Force to have a base with several tenant units, Hickam is clearly unique.

Part of the uniqueness of Hickam is the presence of two units not mentioned above – the 624th Regional Support Group and the 154th Wing. The 624th is made up of reservists while the 154th is part of the Hawaii Air National Guard. Both of these units have been part of Team Hickam in one form or another for a long time, each of them are vital to daily operations.

The 154th Wing is legendary. Unlike most wings you’ll notice that their unit designation does include “Airlift”, “Fighter” or “Air Refueling” before the word Wing because the 154th is all

of the above. Although clearly a distinctive organization, they’re about to take their uniqueness up another notch as they continue to participate in and shape a partnership with the 15th AW as the first-ever associate guard unit in the operation and maintenance of our new C-17s.

The 624th RSG, while not as large as the 154th is just as unique. Within their 350+ person unit you’ll find Maintenance Operations, Aeromedical Evacuation, Civil Engineering and Aerial Port flights. They regularly integrate with their active duty counterparts. In fact, if you’ve had dealings with any of the above functions you’ve probably met people from this unit, and know as well as I do what professionals they are.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne recently said, “We used to talk about the future total force. I think we need to stop that. The total force is now.” I couldn’t agree more. All you need to do is look at how great it works at Hickam to know he’s right.

Today is the first day of a four day weekend. As always, be safe, think before you act, and take care of yourself and each other. Have a great weekend!

You and your team: believe

CMSgt Johnny C. Hollis III
735th Air Mobility Squadron

As you think about you and your team's goals for the New Year, what's your level of certainty? Do you believe that you and your team will reach these goals or are you already letting the possibility of not achieving them run through your head? There will always be plenty of reasons to doubt or not believe, but greatness requires that you ignore them and maintain steadfast certainty. Every thought has power. Behind every action there is a thought. Great accomplishments start with great thoughts.

You may remember the first boxing match between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson several years ago. This was during Mike Tyson's heyday when he could beat most of his opponents by sheer intimidation. Leading up to the fight, all the boxing “experts” weighed in with their opinions of who would win the fight. Unanimously they picked Tyson to win by a knockout. Many of them said that they thought it would be one of the biggest mismatches in the history of boxing. When the fight began, Tyson fought like

he believed the experts. He came out with a fury and nailed Holyfield with several vicious blows. The kind of blows that had demolished Tyson's past opponents. But a funny thing happened. The harder Tyson hit Holyfield the more determined Holyfield became. Instead of stepping back he stepped forward. Instead of weakening he got stronger. As the fight progressed you could see Tyson was beginning to panic. He had delivered his best blows to Holyfield and yet Holyfield kept fighting. To Tyson, Holyfield appeared to be unbeatable. The fight began to turn Holyfield's way and he ended up decisively winning the fight.

What was the secret to Holyfield's success? He always believed he was going to win! The boxing “experts” that predicted he was going to lose the fight did not affect him. He refused to believe them. He held fast to his beliefs, his reality. Things happen when you refuse to doubt yourself and your team. Millions may doubt you, but you must always believe. Then miracles will begin to appear. It all starts with you, the leader. Where is your level of certainty today? It will have a direct impact on you and your team’s ability to reach the goals you have set for the New Year!

Action Line

The purpose of the Action Line is in its name. It’s your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their duties – and we all know there are plenty of those folks here. All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use the Action Line; however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first chance at resolving problems or issues. It’s only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander’s Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your

name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I’ll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Car sales lot

Comment: This is in regards to the car sales lot. We had a jet ski that was stolen from there over the weekend. I spoke with the manager and she indicated she had spoken to Security Forces many times in regards to getting security cameras installed and fences put around the lot. Nothing has been

done about it, and I’d like to get a response in regards to this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to my attention. At this time the installation of security cameras and/or fencing is cost prohibitive. In the interim, the Civil Engineering Squadron has installed an improved lighting system and Security Forces have increased their patrols. Hopefully, this will help prevent future acts of this nature. Should you or any member of the Hickam community detect any suspicious activity anywhere on the installation please don’t hesitate to call the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk at 449-6372/6373.

Gas prices

Comment: I want to talk about gas prices. If you checked the area, how come the Costco was 16 cents lower on the unleaded? They are selling for \$2.69, \$2.80, and \$2.85.

They have always been anywhere from 16-28 cents lower throughout this whole thing. You said you price to the lowest price in the area. Well, Costco is in our area, so why aren’t you at least down to \$2.69?

Response: The Army and Air Force Exchange Service does not match Costco gas pricing for two reasons. First, Costco is a mem-

bership only warehouse club that charges a fee to offset lower prices. AAFES has no such fee or surcharge. Secondly, Costco restricts the way in which the customer can pay for gas. Costco does not accept cash for gas payments and will only accept American Express credit or debit cards. AAFES accepts not only cash and checks but Military Star, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and debit cards at all our facilities. If you have any other questions concerning AAFES please call the manager at 432-8632. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain our benefits.

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Hickam Kukini staff 449-6789
E-mail address hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil
Fax 449-3017
Kukini Online www2.hickam.af.mil/wingpa/news.html
Advertising 521-9111
Hickam Straight Talk Line 449-6789

Hickam Kukini Editorial Staff

Col. William Changose Commander, 15th AW
Maj. Paul Wright Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard (deployed) NCOIC, Internal
Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman Editor
Kirsten Tacker Photojournalist
Amber Suddath Layout/Design
Joe Novotny Technical Adviser
Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's
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500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

Crime Scene

Theft of private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces and reported his personal electronic items, cds and flight cap were stolen from his vehicle. Total cost of stolen of merchandise: \$500.

Shoplifting

A family member of an Air Force retiree was detained

by Army and Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$97.80.

Vandalism

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces and reported her glass window table had been vandalized.

Theft of government property

An Air Force civilian employee reported that a boat trailer was stolen from the Hickam Harbor. Estimated cost of stolen of merchandise: \$2500.

House break in and assault

An active-duty Air Force family member notified security forces and reported an African American male broke into her residence and assaulted her.

Shoplifting

An Army family member

was detained by AAFES store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$3.95.

Damage to private property

An Air Force family member notified security forces and reported her vehicle was damaged.

Give us your feedback



Tell us what you think or would like to see in Kukini. Team Hickam members can submit letters to the editor to:

hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil

NOTES, From A1

Lewis 449-4516; Master Sgt. Rozetia Richardson 449-0679; Tech. Sgt. Erika Gilyard 449-7810; Master Sgt. Taurus Hawk 448-6692; Staff Sgt. Falisha Carman 449-4311; Staff Sgt. Geneva Lindsey 449-7800; Senior Airman Shalanda Schroeder 449-3878.

Electrical outages – Electrical outages affecting Hickam’s Fort Kamehameha Housing area, buildings in the Hawaii Air National Guard areas, Mamala Bay Golf Course, base supply buildings 1072 and 1073, and the fire training facility is scheduled for Jan. 21 from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. These outages are necessary to facilitate upgrade of the electrical distribution systems at Hickam. For more information, contact Henry Wong at 448-7845.

Society of Military Widows – The Society of Military Widows will have a Sunday buffet brunch Jan. 22 at Ft. Shafter’s Hale Ikena Club at 711 Morton Circle. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is at 11:30 a.m. All military widows are invited and current members are encouraged to bring a guest. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. For reservations, contact Virginia Frizelle at 595-7600. For more information, contact Lehua McColgan at 734-5490 or Judith Breitwieser at 262-7953.

PWOC retreat – The Hickam Protestant Women of the Chapel will host their annual retreat on the North Shore Jan. 27 to 29. The guest speaker, Patricia Flenniken, will lead attendees on a personal journey through a spiritual makeover that is sure to relax, refresh and rekindle. For more information and registration, send at email to koot-sikas@hawaii.rr.com. The application deadline is Jan. 20.

Hickam Tax center needs you – The 15th Legal Office is looking for volunteers to be an Income Tax Assistance Representative for the 2006 tax year. Call Staff Sgt. Graig Lemon at 449-1737 ext. 320 or Capt. Jennifer Osborne at ext. 225 for more information or to sign up.

Public Health clinics moved – The 15th Medical Group Public Health has moved its deployment, force health management and prevention medicine offices to the second floor, room A250 in the clinic. The new telephone numbers for deployments are 448-6338 and 448-6334. The new numbers for the force

health management and prevention medicine sections are 448-6339 and 448-6761.

Scholarships – The Hickam Officer’s Spouses Club is offering several scholarships varying in size up to \$5,000 to help defray the cost of college tuition for high school seniors of military members. Applications can be picked up at the base library, thrift shop, education office, Airmen and Family Readiness Flight and Radford High School. Applications can also be downloaded from hoscscholarship@yahoo.com. Completed applications must be submitted by March 1. For more information, contact Marie McCormick at 206-7005.